## सोने की तस्करी

*22. श्री चिमनभाई मेहता : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सोने की तस्करी हाल में बढ़ गई है ; और

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि सोने के आयात पर लगने वाले आयात शुल्क के कारण तस्करों को कानूनी रूप से निर्यात किए जाने वाले सोने के मुकाबले गैर-कानूनी रूप से निर्यात किए जाने वाले सोने पर प्रति पांच किलोग्राम एक लाख 25 हजार रुपए का फायदा होता है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it is not possible to quantify it with certainty. However, after gold imports were allowed to NRIs visiting India after a minimum stay of six months abroad, the quantity legally imported has gone up consistently from 92.30 tonnes in 1992 to 116.16 tonnes in 1993 and to 79.13 tonnes for a period of 5 months in 1994. This indicates that illegal imports of gold are declining.

(b) There is some profit margin on smuggling of gold, as smuggling results in evasion of customs duty leviable on legal imports.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, the Minister has informed that clandestine activities cannot be assessed and therefore, they cannot inform us about the clandestinely imported gold. But the Gold Fields Mineral Service based in London know about the movement of gold, official and unofficial. They have estimated that in 1993, 122 tonnes of gild was imported illegally into India while the hon. Minister has replied that 92 tonnes of gold was imported through the official channel. That means, 60 per cent—or more than that of the requirement of gold in India is being imported in a clandestine manner. The 122 tonnes of gold is of the value of about Rs. 5,000 crores. That is, foreign exchange worth Rs. 5,000 crores has gone, in one way or the other, in foreign countries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put the question.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: I am coming to it. When Pakistan is having only two per cent duty on gold import that is official why do you have such a high import duty of Rs. 320/- per ten grams? I would like to know from the Minister whether they are going to stop clandestine imports of gold and make reduction of duty so that we can have more official gold available in India.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY: Sir, the hon. Member referred to some reports made by a private organisation. But the gold import scheme which was introduced from 30.4.92 has made a positive dent in smuggling of gold by reduction in profit margin and even the smuggling of gold has come down to the extent of gold being legally imported. The hon. Member said that the neighbouring country, Pakistan, is levying only 2 per cent duty for the legal import of gold whereas we are levying 5 per cent duty for legal import of gold. At present there is no proposal to cut down the levy.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: In view of the import of clandestine gold, are you going to consider it? You may not have the proposal. But I have been writing letters and putting questions on this issue. So, there is a proposal. Now, if you say that there is no proposal how am I to understand it? That means you have still not thought about it. Please explain that.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY: No, Sir. With the gold import scheme, even the profitability margin of the smuggled gold has come down. For example, as per the recent report for 5 kgs of lega-

lly imported gold, the profitability is Rs. 2.15 lakh as on 28th July but the profitability in respect of 5 kgs of smuggled gold is about Rs. 59,500 on 28th July. This is the comparison and I can assure that the profitability of the smuggled gold has come down. I don't think any smuggler will try to do it because we are legally importing gold and we are getting it legally. To that extent, the smuggling has come down.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has estimated that for 5 kgs of clandestine gold import, the profit would be around Rs. 60,000. I do not know how he has calculated it because on one kg of clandestine import of gold, Rs. 25,000 would be the levy because Rs. 220/- is the duty. Therefore, they can easily manage to cover Rs. 24,200. On 5 kgs of gold, one can get Rs. 1,25,000. There are some other advantages also for smuggled gold. There is octroi in some cities. That is an additional profit. Therefore they have not applied their mind to this aspect of the matter that there is a huge margin and therefore, I am asking this question. The Minister has said that there is no proposal to reduce the levy. I have been putting question on this issue. I have been making speeches in the House. So, a proposal is there. Therefore, they have to reply to the first question whether they are going to reconsider the issue of reducing the duty is 5 per cent. There duty is 2 per cent. It is quite a high duty. Therefore, let the Minister reply to my first supplementary. What is his answer to my first supplementary? I would like to know about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your second supplementary? You talked quite a lot.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: I want to know from the Minister as to how he has calculated the profit on the smuggled gold. How has he calculated it as Rs. 59,000? That cannot be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I understood your point. Hon. Minister, you may clarify your first answer and then answer the second supplementary.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Afterwards.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is nothing afterwards. Please sit down.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY: Sir, if you permit me, I would like to answer. It will take a little time to explain. The London price for 10 gms of gold on 20.7.94 was 124.50 dollars. Even a person who smuggles gold is also buying it in the open market and he has to pay 124.5 dollars and as regard incidental expenses, in the case of smuggling it is 1.41; the break-up of the incidental expenses for smuggled gold is like this. The air fare for the person bringing gold amounts to Rs. 20,000/- approximately, handling charges Rs. 81,000|- and distribution expenses — Rs. 31,000|-. Approximately it comes to Rs. 1,41,000/-. On five kg., as on 20th July, 1994, a genuine passenger can earn a profit of Rs. 2,60,500|-. By smuggling five kgs. of gold, a person can earn a profit of only Rs. 69,500|-.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you answer about the duty question? Any consideration... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY: I have already replied, Sir, that at present there is no such proposal.

**श्री चतुरानन मिश्र :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने कुल स्मगलिंग का जैसा हिसाब दिया है उतना तो शायद स्मगलर को भी ठीक-ठीक हिसाब है कि नहीं, पता नहीं। बहुत करेक्ट हिसाब दिया है।

how smuggling is taking place and... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY: I told the approximation ... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: And that is approximately.

हम कह रहे हैं कि आपकी पार्टी इसमें ऐक्सपर्ट है, हम डिनाई नहीं कर रहे हैं।

you don't know. I am just asking them. जितनी इन्होंने महनत की है स्मगलिंग का ऐमाउंट ठीक जानने की, उससे थोड़ी और ज्यादा मेहनत करके बता दीजिएगा कि स्मगलिंग कैसे रोकी जाएगी। एक रास्ता तो माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि आप टैक्स को हटा देंगे। दूसरा कोई रास्ता सरकार के पास है या नहीं या स्मगलिंग की फ्री छोड़ देना है, यही मेरा प्रश्न है।

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Sir, there is no doubt that smuggling has been a major problem for several commodoties and the basic reasons are two. First of all, we have also had a regime of very high import duties. We have also had a regime of quantitative restrictions, Either goods were not allowed to come in or even when they were allowed to come in, there were severe restrictions and that is why you have, I think, a phenomenon of large-scale smuggling, whether of gold, whether of electronic goods, whether of synthetic textiles. Now, in the long run, I think, the only way to deal with the phenomenon of smuggling is to bring down these import duties progressively and also to liberalise the import regime. So long as we are not able to do so, we will have, of course, to tighten our administrative mechanism but there are limits to what you can achieve merely by tightening the administrative mechanisms.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Sir, he did not tell us what he is going to do to stop smuggling. (Interruptions)....

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Whether they are going to reduce the duties or not was the quesion which he asked.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member, Shri Chaturanan Mishra, is explaining his question.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Sir, I have asked whether he is going to reduce the duties or not. That is his job; he should look into it. My question is: Is he going to stop it by any means or is he taking another five years' time to do that? How to curb this smuggling is my central question whether it is to be done by reducing the duties or by any other means. I want to know that particularly question.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: My colleague has already answered, Sir, that as of now, we have no proposals to reduce the import duties; we will tighten the administerative mechanisms to deal with this problem, but I have also answered, I think; that over a period of time we have to ensure that smuggling becomes less and less profitable. Apart from this schemo which was introduced in 1992, we have recently allowed import of gold through the special import licence mechanism. That will also make; I think; a dent on the domestic price of gold because in addition to the scheme of 1992, now an additional channel is available for import of gold. We shall watch the results of introduction of this new scheme and this is a scheme which will be kept under constant review.

श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया : सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि सोने की इस तस्करी के बारे में जो जवाब आए हैं उसके माध्यम से यही पता लगता है कि अभी भी हम लंदन के सोने के बाजार पर ही निर्भर करते हैं। र हमारा जो रेवेन्यू इंटेलिजेंस डिपार्टमेंट है या एंटी स्मगलिंग स्क्वायर्ड है, वह जो इंफारमेशन क्लेक्ट करते हैं वह दुबई से, हांगकांग से, बैंकाक से, सिंगापुर से क्लेक्ट करते हैं और दूसरे, ऐसे जो फ्री पोट हैं य ड्यूटी फ्री जोन हैं, वहां से यह इंफारमेशन क्लेक्ट करते हैं कि कौन आदमी सो ना

ला रहा है और कैसे ला रहा है । मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या कभी आपने यह सोचा है कि हमारे यहां से बर्मा को जो तस्करी होती है और सारा विश्व जानता है कि बर्मा का सोना सबसे उच्चकोटि का और सबसे अच्छा बनता है । बर्मा में मिलट्री राज है । यहां से चीजों की तस्करी होकर वहां जा रही हैं और वहां से सोना बाहर आ रहा है, इसके बारे में क्या कभी कोई खोजबीन की गई है या नहीं की गई है ?

मेरे प्रश्न का "ख" भाग है, पिछले तीन सालों में तस्करों के माध्यम से कितना सोना जब्त किया गया है, वह बताने की कृपा करें ? मेरे प्रश्न का "ग" भाग है, क्या यह सच है कि कुछ दिन पहले हमारे कस्टम डिपार्टमेंट ने वह सोना पकड़ा है जो सिल्वर इनगॉट्स के अंदर भरा हुआ था । यह सोना चांदी के इनगॉट्स के अंदर भरकर जो तस्कर ला रहे थे, ऐसे तस्करों का पता लगा है और उसके बाद क्या कुछ और ऐसे तस्करों का पता लगा है जिन्होंने पूर्व में भी चांदी के इनगॉट्स में सोना डालकर तस्करी की है और अगर ऐसा किया है तो उस पर क्या कार्रवाई की जा रही है ?

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY: Sir, regarding the sources of availability of gold, the hon. Member is right that it will be available from free ports like Dubai, etc. It is the price at the London market, which is the international price, which rules throughout the world.

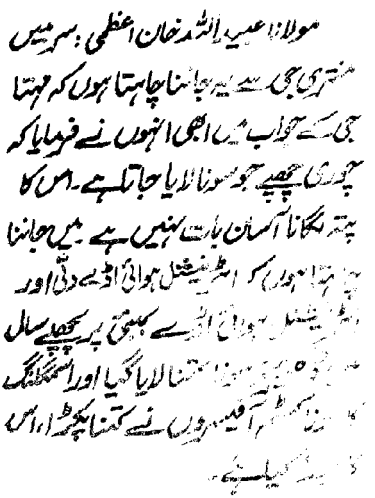
SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: That is not the rate for the smuggling market.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY: They would also buy from there. The hon. Member wanted to know the figures. Regarding the figures, there has been a dramatic fall in the seizures of gold after the gold import scheme has been introduced. After that it was only 2 958 tonnes in the year 1992 and it was reduced to 1.372 tonnes in the year 1993. It is only 0.514 tonnes—it is provisional—up to June, 1994. As my senior colleague has pointed out in his reply to the earlier question by another hon. Member, it is true we are making all efforts and taking administrative measures to tighten vigilance at the airports, coasts, and also the land routes through which smuggling is taking place. Earlier, on information we have tightened the vigilance at all these places, even at the land routes from Burma also.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: What about silver ingots?

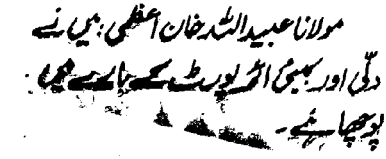
SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY: It is true that the Customs Authorities in Trivandrum recently detected silver ingots studded with gold and the authorities are very vigilant over this. They have got all the methods to deduct them. They are doing a very good work. Immediately after receiving this information, our officers became alert in all airports, land routes, etc. They had been convinced about it. They cut open the silver blocks and they could find gold concealed in them.

**मौलाना ओबेदुल्ला खान आजमी :** सर मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि मेहता जी के जवाब में अभी उन्होंने फरमाया कि चोरी छिपे जो सोना लाया जाता है उस का पता लगाना आसान बात नहीं है । मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इंटरनेशनल हवाई अड्डे दिल्ली और इंटरनेशनल हवाई अड्डे बंबई पर पिछले साल में डिविलयर्ड सोना कितना लाया गया और स्मगलिंग का सोना कस्टम आफिसरों ने कितना पकड़ा, उस का ब्यौरा क्या है ?



SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY: Sir, as far as seizers of last three years are concerned, I have already replied to that question. The total duty collected....

**मौलाना अबेदुल्ला खान आजमी :** मैंने दिल्ली और बंबई एयरपोर्ट के बारे में पूछा है।



SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY: Sir, at present I don't have the figures in respect of Delhi and Bombay airports. I shall collect the figures and pass on the hon. Member.

*23. [The Questioner (Shri Anantray Devshanker Dave) was absent. For answer vide Col..infra]

*24. [The Questioner (Miss Saroj Khaparde) was absent. For answer vide col....infra]

†[ ]Transliteration in Arabic script.

**Recovery of arrears of advertisements**

*25. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what was the amount of arrears that was to be recovered on account of advertisements as on 31.3.1994;

(b) who were the major defaulters; and

(c) what steps have been taken to recover the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Statement**

(a) All India Radio—Rs. 1.38 crores (excluding cases under arbitration)

Doordarshan—Rs. 12.81 crores (upto 1992-93)

(b)

1. Acil
2. Contract Advertising
3. Creative Units
4. Clarion
5. Everest
6. Enterprise
7. Headstart Advertising
8. Hindustan Thompson Advertising
9. Lintas
10. Maa Communications Pvt. Ltd.
11. Mode Advertising
12. Musireca Cassettes Incorporate
13. Ogilvy and Mather Pvt. Ltd.
14. Radio TV Commercials
15. Rediffusion Advertising
16. Renukay Advertising